

K O O T Z N A H O O I N L E T
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West coast of Admiralty Island.
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Kootznahoo Inlet consists of Favorite Bay, Kanalku Bay and Salt Lake.

The run of chums in Favorite Bay commenced June 24 and terminated July 19. During this time there were approximately 1600 chums caught. Humpbacks made their first appearance in Favorite Bay August 3; however the run for the season was unusually small.

There were a few sockeyes and cohoes in Kanalku Bay and Salt Lake during the early part of July, but the peak of the run of sockeyes was noticed July 19. This particular specie was unusually small in size. One boat made seven hauls in two days, netting 732 sockeyes.

On August 17 there was a fairly good run of humpbacks in Kanalku Bay, but the flow of water was so extremely low that no salmon could go up the stream, which was formerly a humpback stream.

An investigation was made on July 30 of Salt Lake and Freshwater Falls, at head of lake, at which time there were between 5000 and 6000 sockeyes at the foot of these falls in an area of 1200 feet in length, 100 feet in width and from 6 to 15 feet in depth. This falls is as far as salmon can go, therefore they remain at the foot of the falls to spawn, which is three miles from low water mark.

The Herring Situation.

After making an investigation August 30 of the herring situation and from my observations for the past five years, I am going to explain why there are so few herring in this inlet to day.

All the herring that enter this inlet are spawned in Mitchell Bay, the channel from Mitchell Bay leading into Kanalku Bay and Kanalku Bay. Every herring entering this inlet winter in Kanalku Bay.

(Herring Situation Continued)



They commence to go to this bay about September 15, school at a time until the last school goes in late in October. They do not leave Kanalku Bay again until May 25, after they have spawned; the first school spawning May 5; about 1/2 spawn in Kanalku Bay, 1/4 in channel leading from Mitchell Bay to Kanalku Bay and 1/4 in Mitchell Bay, so that these herring remain in Kanalku Bay approximately eight months.

The Killisnoo Company has not seined in this bay for six years, so in 1920 and 1921 this inlet was just one mass of herring; also in 1922, but since the herring plant in Hood Bay commenced operations they have gotten all their herring in this inlet in the fall. Herring do not come into the inlet until about August 10; which is the time of their first appearance in the mouth of the inlet. This plant had two seine boats seining in the inlet until late last fall. They would go in to Kanalku Bay on flood tide and back on ebb tide loaded to the swamping point. They seined in Kanalku Bay about 40 days, so this fall or at present, there is not 10% of the herring that was there in the fall of 1923 or 5% of the herring in the fall of 1922.

There is one seine boat for this plant seining herring in the mouth of the inlet at present and the native captain of the boat Merimac told me that as soon as the salmon cannery in Hood Bay closed two native boats were going to fish for herring for the herring plant.

I have resided at the mouth of this inlet for the past 15 years and will say I have never seen so few herring in this inlet as at present time.

Harry Peehan,
Stream Watchman.

Season of 1924.